

## Message Text

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15

ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 SCA-01 EB-11 DOTE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

FAA-00 INR-10 PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 PPTE-00 SS-20 NSC-07

COME-00 /093 W

----- 025449

O 300745Z MAR 74

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2582

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS ASMARA 0210

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, CGEN, BT

SUBJECT: CIVIL AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT

REF: ADDIS 3495, ASMARA 203 AND 206 (NOTAL)

1. AN ALIOTTE LAMA HELICOPTER (FRENCH MANUFACTURE), CANADIAN REGISTRY, OWNED BY CANWEST, CALGARY, CHARTERED TO TENNECO/ETHIOPIA, FOR EXPLORATION IN ERITREA, FAILED TO RETURN FROM FLIGHT FROM MASSAWA TO AILET ON MARCH 26. REPORTS WERE INCONCLUSIVE AND UNCONFIRMED UNTIL THURSDAY ABOUT 5:00 P.M. WHEN CONGEN ADVISED THAT CHARRED REMAINS OF AIRCRAFT HAD BEEN FOUND AT A LOCATION SOME DISTANCE FROM SCHEDULED LANDING POINT. THE HELICOPTER HAD DEPARTED MASSAWA FOR AILET AREA, AND DISAPPEARED ON RETURN TRIP. AILET IS A SMALL VILLAGE ABOUT 40 KILOMETERS WEST OF MASSAWA.

2. FIVE PERSONS, INCLUDING PILOT, WERE ON BOARD, AS FOLLOWS:

A. JOHN W. RODGERS, U.S. CITIZEN, ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER, TENNECO/ETHIOPIA;

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B. POWERS WILLIAM CAYCE, U.S. CITIZEN, EXPLORTATION MANAGER,

TENNECO/ETHIOPIA;

C. DONALD WEATHERFORD, CANADIAN, PRESIDENT OF CANWEST AND PILOT OF HELICOPTER;

D. CLIFFORD, JAMES, CANADIAN, GEOLOGIST FOR TENNECO/ETHIOPIA;

E. MATTE TAVOLA, U.S. CITIZEN, GEOLOGIST EMPLOYED BY THE IEG MINISTRY OF MINES, AND SERVING AS CONSULTANT TO TENNECO/ETHIOPIA.

3. NO SIGNS OF PASSENGERS AT SITE OF BURNING, AND THEREFORE BELIEVED UNHARMED IN CUSTODY OF INSURGENTS.

4. ABOVE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY E.P. BURTCHAELL, GENERAL MANAGER, TENNECO/ETHIOPIA, WHO ARRIVED MARCH 28 TO ASSUME CHARGE OF SEARCH OPERATIONS. MR. BURTCHAELL STATES THAT ALL FAMILIES, EXCEPT MR. TAVOLA, HAVE BEEN ADVISED AND HE WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP THEM INFORMED THROUGH COMPANY CHANNELS.

5. FOR ADDIS ABABA: MR. BURTCHAELL STATES THAT THE SECTION OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES IN WHICH MR. TAVOLA WORKS, IS HEADED BY AN AMERICAN CITIZEN NAMED DR. TOOMBS, WHO MAY HAVE INFORMATION REGARDING MR. TAVOLA'S FAMILY. EMBASSY PLEASE CONTACT DR. TOOMBS REGARDING THE FAMILY, AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION.

PERRY

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 30 MAR 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1974ASMARA00210  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740070-0606  
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**Office:** ACTION SCSE  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** ADDIS 3495, ASMARA 203 AND 206 (NOTA, L)  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** garlanwa  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 16 JUL 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <16 JUL 2002 by elbezefj>; APPROVED <18 JUL 2002 by garlanwa>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CIVIL AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT  
**TAGS:** CASC, CGEN, BT  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005